FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN DISCUSSES FACTIONALISM, DEBT, TRADE

PM171009 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 5 Oct 85 p 10

[Interview with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin by A. Muro; date, place not given]

[Text] [Muro] Do you believe democracy can be consolidated in Argentina?

[Alfonsin] Nobody will be disappointed with democracy. But one cannot rely solely on the institutions in order to consolidate democracy. Certain values must prosper so that every citizen will rid himself of all factionalism and violence. Democracy demands consensus through disagreement. Argentine society has learned to reject slogans and has begun to demand a serious approach and a rational discourse.

[Muro] What is the chief obstacle to achieving the consolidation of democracy?

[Alfonsin] Factionalism.

[Muro] Are you not worried that the main opposition force, Peronism, is becoming fragmented?

[Alfonsin] Of course I would rather have more structured political forces as interlocutors. But I believe we can achieve that too.

[Muro] One of the main challenges facing Argentine democracy is the human rights issue. The judiciary is trying the military leaders responsible, but some humanitarian organizations seem dissatisfied.

[Alfonsin] I have done precisely what I promised during the election campaign, so no Argentine can claim to be surprised. We have kept our promises within the context of a constitutional state. I can understand some sectors claiming to be dissatisfied. But the vast majority of Argentines support our action. All this is also linked with the need to restore the Armed Forces' prestige. To those who disagree I would point out that prestige must be restored on the basis of truth and justice. This is an essential precondition for the reconciliation of the entire Argentine population.

[Muro] There have recently been some attacks, and the interior minister uncovered a plan to destabilize democracy. Is there a terrorist threat from the extreme Right?

[Alfonsin] Terrorism is one of the tragedies of the modern world, which exists in Europe and in Latin America. I would describe our security situation here as one of fireworks, as compared to the bombs exploding in Europe.

[Muro] But is there no threat in Argentina?

[Alfonsin] Yes, there is. But it jeopardizes neither society nor the system. We are talking about small groups, extreme right-wing factions, Nazis, who will be contained by society itself.

[Muro] Argentina's main anxiety concerns the economy. With an external debt of $48 billion what are the chances of recovery?

[Alfonsin] The debt is not the only problem. The foreign debt is the consequence of the forms of discrimination which we suffer in foreign trade as a result of an unjust international economic order. All the Latin American countries suffer the same situation. As long as the industrialized countries continue these restrictive trading practices we cannot increase our exports. The only way debtor countries can repay is by exporting more.

[Muro] You say that it is a matter not only of tackling the debt problem as a mere financial problem but of comprehensively altering the rules of the game as regards international trade.

[Alfonsin] At the moment exchange rates are undergoing a terrible deterioration. Argentina is beating all records for volume of exports but the value of our sales is decreasing. Having fallen 40 percent last year wheat prices have lost a further 15 percent this year. Maize has dropped 30 percent. Overall, grain prices have fallen by 20 percent. Something similar has happened with meat, owing to state subsidies on the scale of an outright economic aggression. Within the EEC, meat production costs range from $2,500 to $3,000 per ton but thanks to subsidies markets are being won by offering supplies at $1,000 per ton. Argentina, with a price of $1,200, cannot compete with this practice of dumping.

[Muro] Your government seems to have adopted a more flexible attitude on the renegotiation of the debt.

[Alfonsin] Not at all. In fact we have convinced the IMF in particular that the implementation of an orthodox theory would lead us to disaster. Having accomplished this, we decided to implement a recovery plan which is very heterodox compared to previous IMF formulas. I cannot conceal our pride in implementing -- so far very successfully -- a plan which is totally Argentine.

[Muro] But you also seem to have adopted a more pragmatic stance with regard to your overall approach to the foreign debt, of your country in particular and of Latin America as a whole.

[Alfonsin] We have changed nothing. We have always talked about the need to coordinate our policies in Latin America in order to get along. Similarly we are still in favor of a dialogue with the United States and the EEC because the solution of the debt problem demands political decisions.

[Muro] Is the unity which you advocate in Latin America being achieved?

[Alfonsin] Never in its history has Latin America been as united as it is now. At no time in this century have there been so many meetings, exchanges of information, even so much friendship between Latin American heads of state. But our task is not just to make demands. We also have an obligation to be in earnest, truly in earnest, in our demand for greater social justice, which is the precondition for peace.

[Muro] Could a united stance of this kind facilitate a unilateral moratorium, as some leaders claim?

[Alfonsin] No. That is base propaganda. Each country has different problems. This does not mean that we must cease to coordinate our financial policies, but each country must act in accordance with its own conditions and possibilities.

[Muro] To return to the domestic plane, Argentina is still submerged in a serious economic crisis, and it is estimated we have 1.4 million unemployed or underemployed people.

[Alfonsin] It is impossible to give a precise figure. Within the field of underemployment there are certain parallel activities which are sometimes very lucrative. But it is true that many unemployed people are unable to satisfy their most basic needs.

This is why we had to launch the PAN (National Food Plan), which now guarantees 5 million people a minimum caloric diet. This figure alone reveals the extent of the crisis which we encountered on our accession to power and which we are trying to resolve urgently.

[Muro] You are trying to resolve it with a very stringent economic plan which some people maintain could prompt social tensions and threats to democracy.

[Alfonsin] One threat which democracy could not endure was the level of inflation that the country had reached. When the austral plan was introduced the inflation rate had reached 30 percent a month. This plan is achieving numerous results, both visible and concrete, and signs of economic revival are beginning to emerge. Argentina is a wealthy country, though much less so than in the myth that we created, but it does have major potentials and a wonderful people. If we can govern, if there are no dictatorships, and if we succeed in carrying out our intention of promoting greater social justice, within a generation Argentina will again be among the foremost countries of the world.

[Muro] But the plan is encountering much resistance.

[Alfonsin] Some political and trade union circles have criticized it. But their criticisms are based on an obsolete perspective on the Argentine situation. Apart from those isolated sectors, the majority of the country -- some 80 percent -- supports the plan.

CARRANZA DISCUSSES MILITARY BUDGET, TAM TANK

PY161606 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2355 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Oct (NA) -- Defense Minister Roque Carranza today stated here that "the country does not need a military apparatus to solve border questions, but does require functional and modern armed forces to meet any eventual conflicts that may crop up, even those outside our region but with repercussions on it. Argentina does not expect any conflicts now, but it could encounter one in the future because of the East-West tension existing in the world," the defense minister added.

On the other hand, Carranza stated that "one of the internal problems we have to meet" lies in the "the need to reintegrate the armed forces in the new Argentine democracy." This requires "mutual understanding and the correction of mistakes we all made," he stated.

Speaking tonight at the Buenos Aires National High School during one of the conferences scheduled by its alumni association, the defense minister also said he felt that "the current budget of the armed forces, totaling two percent of the GDP, is not particularly low considering the figures on record. Indeed, what throws the military budget out of balance today are the debts incurred in the 1970's for the purchase of arms and some industrial investments which are very costly but are not productive or profitable," Carranza noted.

In addition, Carranza announced that "in 1986 we expect to have available in the country the prototype of the new Argentine medium tank (TAM), built jointly with Israel. Argentina is manufacturing the chassis and the body of this model, and Israel is charged with equipping it with a turret capable of launching a missile with a 70 km range," Carranza explained.

Referring to the evolution in the concept of national defense, the defense minister stated that "a few years ago it was essentially military but today this is an eminently political matter. Today, defense is the result of an interrelation among the foreign policy, the economy, and the military area, and it is not possible to avoid pitfalls without a close coordination among them," the defense minister added.

After emphasizing that the developed countries have an academic approach to national defense issues with civilians actively engaged in them, Carranza stated that "unfortunately, Argentina has not made much progress in this direction."

Referring to the technological changes taking place in war materiel, Carranza, presenting an example, stated that "weapons are no longer mentioned as much as weapon systems, whose use must be coordinated among the different military branches; otherwise they are unmanageable and very costly. We also must not forget that, except for precise strategic cases, large warships have disappeared, being replaced by smaller, more versatile and specialized ships," Carranza added. In this regard, Carranza stated that "it is inconceivable today for each military branch to possess its own artillery system, its own research center, or its own decision-making center. The modern trend points toward centralization and the optimum use of available resources," the defense minister noted.

Speaking on the question of the formation of the military cadres, Carranza stressed the need "to lay the foundations for achieving understanding and respect between the armed forces and society, among the military branches, and within each branch of the military."

In conclusion, Carranza emphsized that "the modern defense policies point to a trend toward unity and complementarity among the nations for regional defense because, except for the United States and the Soviet Union, no country can be self-sufficient in this regard."

HUMAN RIGHTS TRIAL JUDGE'S HOUSE ATTACKED

PY161220 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0955 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Oct (NA) -- Unknown persons last night shot up the home of Cesar Valerga Araoz, a member of the Federal Criminal Appeals Court and of the high court that is trying the former commanders in chief for serious human rights violations. The bullets hit a police patrol car that was parked outside the house carrying out guard duties. There were no casualties.

Valerga Araoz' house is located on the corner of Sucre and O'Higgins streets in San Isidro, located in northern Buenos Aires. The heavy caliber bullets were fired from a car that drove rapidly past the house. The policemen had no time to repel the surprise attack.

POSTAL WORKERS STAGE STRIKE IN NINE STATES

PY172352 LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST Rio de Janeiro in English 17 Oct 85 p 1

[Text] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST) -- Postal service in at least nine states, including Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, was halted by a strike Wednesday. Postal workers in Sao Paulo voted to join the strike today.

Scattered violence and police repression were reported around the country as officials attempted to keep the mails moving but had little luck. Some 30 arrests were made in front of the big post office building in Rio de Janeiro and police riot troops broke up picket lines with tear gas.

Postal officials said they would not dialogue with strikers and announced they would begin to fire workers adhering to the movement.

The strikers are demanding that the post office pay increased wages agreed to after a short strike earlier this year.

M-19 OPERATIONS IN BORDER AREA CONFIRMED

PY172149 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Manaus, 17 Oct (EFE) -- Amazonia military commander General Otavio Medeiros said today that Colombian guerrillas of the 19 April (M-19) Movement are operating near the Colombian-Brazilian border. Gen Medeiros said that a 500-person M-19 guerrilla camp has been spotted 50 km from the border in the Colombian district of Mitu. He added that for 3 months now, the Brazilian Army has been aware of the guerrilla operations and, consequently, the jungle infantry battalion headquartered in the area has been reinforced.

The information supplied by Gen Medeiros, who headed the National Intelligence Service (SNI) during the government of General Joao Baptista Figueiredo (1979-1985), contradicts a statement by Colombian Defense Minister General Miguel Vega Uribe, who said M-19 is not operating on the Brazilian-Colombian border.

Even though Medeiros ruled out the possibility of the Colombian guerrillas beginning to operate in Brazilian territory, he said preventive measures have been adopted. He reported that the two Colombian guerrillas arrested on 25 September in Brazilian territory had deserted from the Mitu guerrilla camp, and that after being questioned they were handed over to the Colombian Government. Gen Medeiros added that the Brazilian Armed Forces have not taken stronger action because they are sure the M-19 does not plan to operate in Brazilian territory.

The official confirmation of M-19 activities on the Brazilian border has been followed by mobilization of the military units under the jurisdiction of the Amazonia military region in northeastern Brazil, which includes Amazonas, Para, Rondonia, and Acre states, part of Maranhao and Goias states, and the territories of Roraima and Amapa.

The Colombian-Brazilian border area is rich in gold. Therefore, the Brazilian authorities have placed the zone under control to keep gold transactions outside the influence of the M-19 guerrillas.

MINISTER REPORTS DEBT RENEGOTIATION, IMF SUPPORT

PY172129 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Bucci has expressed satisfaction with the achievements at the international conference in Seoul, and later in Japan. Returning to Santiago, he talked briefly to the press but did not mention the achievements. The finance minister arrived in Santiago at approximately 1000 today and stated that by the end of the month, he will go to the United States for the signing of the contracts for the renegotiation of the foreign debt with creditor banks.

Assessing the negotiations in Seoul and Tokyo, Bucci said the trip had two main objectives for the country's economy. The first was to meet with IMF and World Bank authorities in Seoul, at the joint meeting. He said: I am satisfied with the negotiations and the objectives achieved. The minister did not mention these achievements, however. The second objective was met in Tokyo, taking the important step of extending supplier's credits from Japanese companies and the Japanese government to Chilean companies. He added that the World Bank board will meet next week to assess the structural-adjustment credit that will be granted to Chile. It carries a $250-million first disbursement. Asked about the dramatic call made to the international community for support of the Chilean economic program, Bucci said that at the Seoul conference, the proposal made by the U.S. Treasury secretary has had a great impact, but the solution to the Latin American foreign debt problem must be achieved on the basis of a joint action involving all parties: all creditor banks and nations, international organizations, and the debtor countries. This is what Chile has been doing so far, Bucci stated.

While the minister was traveling back to Chile, the government today announced the state guarantee of $785 million for the payment of interest on the country's foreign debt, the renegotiation of which has been achieved with the creditor banks. This renegotiation agreement, published today in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, explains that Manufacturer's Hanover Trust will act as the agent of our country. Moreover, the Finance Ministry has published four decrees granting state guarantees for the following transactions $6.1 billion; another for $2.5 billion; a third for $1.3 billion, and the last for $2.5 billion.

AIR FORCE OFFICER ARRESTED AFTER TESTIMONY

PY171651 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0451 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Santiago, 16 Oct (EFE) -- A Chilean Air Force [FACH] officer was arrested today after testifying in court for more than 15 hours. The arrest was ordered by Judge Carlos Cerda, who is investigating the case of 13 individuals who were arrested and are now missing. Squadron Commander Robert Fuentes Morrison, who for the last 7 months had been attending a special training course in South Africa, has been implicated in the case being heard by Judge Carlos Cerda. Fuentes will remain in a FACH unit as a result of a new law which does not require him to remain incommunicado or in jail. According to witnesses and the testimonies of others, Fuentes was the leader of a joint commando group made up of members of other security services, which from 1976 to 1977 was involved in the arrest and disappearance of 13 leaders of the clandestine Communist Party.

FACH Commander and government junta member Major General Fernando Mathei reported that the FACH brought Fuentes Morrison back to Chile on 12 October. Mathei denied that Fuentes Morrison resigned from the FACH or that he refused to appear before the Chilean court.

PROTEST SENT TO VENEZUELA ON FISHING BOAT SEIZURE

PA151805 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Foreign Ministry has sent a protest note to the Venezuelan Government for the seizure of a Vikingos de Colombia, Inc., fishing boat and its crew by the Venezuelan Navy, which accuses the national corporation of operating in Venezuelan waters. Emisoras CARACOL Network has learned that following a careful analysis of the way in which the boat and its crew were seized, San Carlos Palace decided to send a protest note to the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry. It is understood that the Colombian boat was in our territorial waters, barely 7.7 miles off La Guajira coast -- not in Venezuelan territorial waters, as Venezuela insists.

This is the first official reaction by President Belisario Betancur's government concerning the events which took place 20 days ago, when Oceanos Inc. and Vikingos de Colombia boats were intercepted while fishing in upper La Guajira, presumably -- according to the Venezuelan version -- in the area of Los Monjes. The Vikingos de Colombia crew is still under arrest in Punto Fijo, Venezuela. The note includes all the proper evidence so that President Jaime Lusinchi's government may resolve this problem and release the crew members.

The Colombian Navy has received instructions from the executive branch to strengthen vigilance on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and safeguard the Colombian people's rights in those areas.

BETANCUR ENDORSES PRESS FREEDOM POLICY

PA171652 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] President Belisario Betancur has said in Cartagena that the guerrillas have used the media to make hostile, delirious, aggressive, and unfair statements. The head of state added that even though he has come under criticism from some sectors in the country, the government will not change its policy on freedom of the press. This morning President Betancur delivered the opening speech at the annual meeting of the Inter-American Press Association.

Opposes L. American Press Agency

PA171656 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1207 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Cartagena, 16 Oct (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur announced officially today that his government does not support the creation of a state news agency because freedom of the press is of utmost importance. Speaking at the plenary session of the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA) during its 3d day of meetings in this Colombian Caribbean city, he said that he is opposed to a Latin American agency, although the gesture may be viewed as an idealistic position.

Speaking before more than 300 media directors, the Colombian chief of state assessed the role of the press in the historic and political development of American countries and reiterated his strong support for freedom of the press.

In his speech, entitled: Freedom of Expression; Symbol of Political Culture, Betancur criticized the arms race and hunger and asked that governments organize the traffic of foodstuffs and medicine before the traffic of death.

BOMB EXPLODES IN MEDELLIN SCHOOL, 18 INJURED

PA171823 Bogota Television Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Eighteen persons were injured today at the [word indistinct] Fidel Suarez National School in Medellin when a bomb placed in the school's cafeteria exploded. Those injured, some seriously, are students ranging in age from 14 to 18. Two school cafeteria workers were also injured. The principal labeled the attack, perpetrated by unknown persons, as cruel terrorism. The injured are being treated at several medical centers in Antioquia's capital.

GUERRILLAS OCCUPY MIRANDA, KIDNAP POLICEMAN

PA171511 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Cali -- An attack by the M-19 [19 April Movement], the Ricardo Franco Front, and the Quintin Lame group on Miranda municipality in Cauca Department has resulted in eight deaths -- seven guerrillas and one policeman -- seven injuries, and the destruction of the municipal building, the Agrarian Fund Building, and the Cafetero Bank.

The town of approximately 15,000 people, on the border with Valle del Cauca Department, was occupied for 5 hours by a group of 50 heavily armed subversives led by Javier Delgado, leader of the Ricardo Franco Front. The attack was repelled by units of the Pichincha Battalion, the [name indistinct] Mechanized Group, and the Pumas counterinsurgency force that were deployed to the municipality when the attack was reported.

There is calm in Miranda now, although there is concern about the fate of Police Inspector Omar Godoya, who was kidnapped by the guerrillas to cover their escape. Two policemen who had initially been kidnapped by the subversives were released in the last few hours.

The attackers, who arrived by truck in Miranda, used explosives to blow up the municipal building and partially destroy the Agrarian Fund Building, from which they stole about 800,000 pesos. They also took 1.2 million pesos from the Cafetero Bank, which was also destroyed. Two of the guerrillas killed in the clash were 13- and 15-year-old boys.

M-19 COLUMN REPORTEDLY ENTERS VENEZUELA

PA161900 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Oct 85 p 3 A

[Text] Bucaramanga, 10 Oct -- A guerrilla column of the 19 April Movement (M-19) has left for Venezuela through the Santander area, reliable sources have reported. They said that the group is led by former high school teacher Gerardo Ardila Serrano, member of the eastern regional group of M-19. The sources did not give the exact place where the rebels are now.

It is not known why the seditious group suddenly left for the neighboring country. Some sources were speculating on the possibility that Ardila Serrano has left M-19, which is now practically dismembered following the harsh blows dealt to it by the Army and the police throughout the country. Official sources neither confirmed nor denied the story. Another source said that the subversives are moving about in the border jungle area and plan to join other guerrilla groups in Venezuela.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA RESUMED

PY171828 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1759 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Oct (EFE) -- It has been officially reported that in keeping with their will to strengthen friendship and cooperative ties between their two governments and peoples, Uruguay and Cuba today resumed the diplomatic and consular relations that were severed in 1964.

A communique issued by the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry reports that Uruguayan Ambassador Julio Lacarte Muro and Cuban Ambassador Carlos Lechuga signed in Geneva (Switzerland) a joint declaration through which both nations officially resume diplomatic relations.

The declaration reads: In keeping with their will to strengthen friendship and cooperative ties among their peoples and governments and inspired by the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly regarding mutual respect for the sovereignty of nations, independence, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of nations, the governments of Uruguay and Cuba have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level as of 17 October.

The declaration adds that the governments will appoint ambassadors at the proper time.

'Neither Happy Nor Annoyed'

PY170244 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 10 Oct 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Imminent Resumption of Relations with Cuba"]

[Excerpts] The Uruguayan Government is about to resume diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba. As is well known, these relations were discontinued following an Uruguayan decision made through a decree issued on 8 September 1964 and signed by Engineer Giannattasio, the then National Council president, and Mr Alejandro Zorrilla de San Martin, the then foreign minister. Although bilateral commercial ties were also discontinued by the decree, these ties were restored soon after the current administration came into office.

We share the idea and support the decision to resume relations with this Caribbean island. We base our position on very clear reasons, which are also upheld by international law. Relations between countries must be relations between sovereign nations, between sovereign states that respect each other's sovereignty.

Therefore, neither liking nor disliking, nor ideological agreement or disagreement with the government of a given nation has anything to do with the issue. The fact that a foreign government has jurisdiction over its territory should be enough for us to recognize it. Similarly, the fact that a country has an established government should be enough for us to establish diplomatic, consular, commercial, and cultural relations and so forth with it without paying any attention whatsoever to its origin, its political philosophy, or its being in agreement or disagreement with our own form of government.

Thus, we are neither exceedingly happy nor annoyed at the announcement President Sanguinetti made to Uruguayan journalists in Spain a few hours ago.

To make things clear, it is necessary to point out that, unlike Nicanor Costa Mendez -- that peculiar foreign minister of the Argentine dictatorship who during the Malvinas war established "fraternal" ties with Fidel Castro -- the Uruguayan Government is in no way planning to do so. Neither is it planning to endorse Castro's dictatorship simply because it has developed regardless of our support or rejection of it.

Of course, we do not like dictatorships. We would like Cuba to be democratic, just as we would also like the Soviet Union, Poland, the CSSR, Cambodia, Vietnam, and all countries submitted to communist tyranny to be. In the same way, we would like Chile, the Chile of the Pinochet dictatorship to enjoy a democratic government, freely elected and respectful of the rights and freedoms of everyone.

But, since we nevertheless maintain diplomatic, consular, commercial, and other types of relations with the Soviet Union, Poland, the CSSR, and Chile, we think that relations with Cuba, which have been suspended for more than 20 years, should be resumed.

Unlike the Soviet Union or the so-called popular democracies, may Cuba again try "to export revolution" as it did in the past? It is possible. We really do not dare deny this possibility beforehand, just as we would not dare deny it beforehand regarding any other similiar regime. But this is no reason, after no less than 2 decades have passed, not to try to resume with that country a system of civilized relations, reciprocally respectful of sovereignty and, therefore, free from undue interference in the internal political affairs of either country.

As far as we know, the resumption of relations has been agreed on those bases and on the commitment of each country to maintain the same number -- a reduced number, by the way -- of diplomatic personnel as the other country. Since our government is not only democratic and respectful but also firm and proud, we can be certain that it will not tolerate the meddling of any foreign government or diplomat in our internal affairs, and that, should that meddling occur, it will immediately react to it as would any government that respects others and expects in return to be respected by them.

U.S. TREATMENT OF FOREIGN DEBT DISAPPOINTING

PY161836 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 9 Oct p 4

[Editorial: "Another Bet on the IMF and Free Market Rules"]

[Text] All the expectations of the Third World during the last few weeks that there might be a change in the attitude of the Reagan Administration toward the foreign debt crisis have evaporated.

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker has announced a plan that fundamentally reasserts the IMF's preponderant role, demands greater structural reforms from the heaviest debtors, and endorses even further President Reagan's liberal principles.

Most of the Third World countries expected the United States to turn the subject of the foreign debt into a political issue -- instead of continuing to handle it within its current limitations -- in order to possibly lighten the burdens of the countires overwhelmed by their debt. However, this did not happen. What is more, everything continues the same or worse, since the U.S. administration's orthodox view of this matter was actually reaffirmed. Baker's plan consists of three points:

The first one calls for the debtors to undertake broad macroeconomic structural reforms within the guidelines set by the multilateral credit organizations. The second point confirms the IMF's international political auditor role. The third point stresses the need for the northern banks to increase by $20 billion the new credits for the debtor countries.

Nonetheless, even though the expectations of the southern countries remain unanswered, some positive results were obtained: Baker admitted that a steady economic growth process rather than an inflationary one is needed for the Third World as the only valid way to solve (in the very long term) the foreign debt crisis and maintain the political and social stability of the Third World.

Therefore, this represents some progress if we also consider the criticism by IMF Managing Director Jacques de Larosiere of U.S. economic policy -- that is, mainly of its enormous fiscal deficit (which is greater than $200 billion) because, in a slow yet inexorable manner, the developed countries are beginning to understand the real characteristics of the foreign debt crisis and the need for a different approach in order to establish new north-south economic relations.

SHULTZ STATEMENTS ON LATIN AMERICA DEBT PRAISED

PY171839 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 10 Oct 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Agreement and Something Else"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said during the luncheon he gave for the Latin American foreign ministers and ambssadors at the United Nations that "the United States and the countries of the region and the Caribbean are united by a close friendship." He also emphasized the real progress of democracy in Latin America because "no other region in the world, neither Asia, Africa, or even Europe have so many people living under democracy." He went on to say that "the struggle for freedom is linked to the struggle for economic growth, and the economic pressures we are confronting are tremendous." He also said that "the crisis created by the debt has forced many countries to make adjustments that are having serious political and social consequences because the people of the indebted countries cannot be expected to continue to tighten their belts indefinitely."

Obviously, Shultz' comments show the type of realism that not long ago was not only avoided but denied by the leaders of the great powers, including his own government. Explicit recognition of the sacrifices being made by the Latin American countries in becoming net exporters of capital, and recognition of the end to achieve "sustained economic growth" to help and not obstruct the democratic process clearly show a change of attitude and Shultz's agreement with the regional point of view. It would be a good thing if this attitude prevailed throughout the U.S. Administration.

The hard work done by our countries to explain their position; the permanent demands made in view of a clearly unjust and untenable situation; the debates in the international meetings; the negotiations carried out with monetary officials and foreign banks; the tours and presidential speeches; and especially the naked truth of a situation that can no longer be disguised but that demands basic solutions to cure its basic ills, have enabled the secretary of state to at least accept reality.

Therefore, let us hope that gradually "something else" consisting of facts will join the declarations made by Shultz and other Western personalities in the past so that Latin America can once again become the continent of hope and freedom, leaving behind forever frustration and democratic instability.

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH PRC

PY161509 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1309 GMT 6 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 16 Oct (EFE) -- Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias has stated that Uruguay will continue to develop an open foreign policy and that without pause it will advance toward establishing diplomatic relations with the PRC.

In an interview published in the leftist weekly AQUI, Iglesias stated that steps are constantly being taken to move the Montevideo Government closer to the Beijing Government. He also highlighted the need to make advances in opening markets and attracting investment.

Iglesias also stated that in November 1985 there will be an exchange of trade delegations with the PRC, and we hope always to maintain the policy of advancing slowly but surely toward relations at all levels.

In the lengthy interview, the foreign minister also said Uruguay shares the great objectives and problems of the Third World, especially in the economic sector and the basic principles of the group of nonaligned countries, where Uruguay is currently an active observer. Iglesias also said the Foreign Ministry is evaluating whether to become an active member of the nonaligned group.

The foreign minister made these announcements exactly 24 hours after reporting that relations with Cuba, which were broken off in September 1984, will be resumed during October.

GENERAL REPLACED AFTER 'POLITICAL STATEMENTS'

PY172121 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2006 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 17 Oct (EFE) -- General Jorge Bazzano, a former chief of the military household of the presidency, will replace General Alfonso Feola, who has been dismissed from his post as 2d Army Division commander.

The 2d Division is one of the most important of the four Uruguayan Army divisions. It is headquartered in San Jose, 90 km west of Montevideo.

The announcement was made by Defense Ministry sources today, following yesterday's presidential order dismissing Feola, who made political statements prohibited for military officers on active duty.

VENEZUELA TO STUDY COLOMBIAN PROTEST ON SEIZURE

PA161345 Paris AFP in Spanish 0010 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] Caracas, 15 Oct (AFP) -- The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry will study the protest note sent by the Foreign Ministry in Bogota concerning the fishing boats seized in Venezuela, which Colombia asserts were navigating in its waters, Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi stated today. Consalvi underscored that the geographic coordinates quoted in the Colombian protest note do not coincide with the information from the Venezuelan naval forces. He said that this office "will closely analyze the Colombian note and he will meet with naval forces representatives to ascertain the true location of those fishing boats."

Two of the ships are Japanese, the Caribbean Star No 8 and the Caribbean Star No 23, and the other one was registered in Panama, the Makandra No 15; they were leased by Colombian organizations, Consalvi explained.

Consalvi said to the journalists: "As you well know, this is the zone where the naval forces have had to maintain a zealous vigilance, basically due to drug trafficking, which has become a problem in that area as has been recognized by the Venezuelan and Colombian governments. " In addition, he considered unimportant the fact that the matter had been publicized in Colombia, pointing out that this could not be avoided given the protests of the fishermen and the fishing companies. "This is no longer a confidential matter, and that is logical; however, anything that happened in our other maritime areas has not been confidential either," he added.

When asked about an editorial in the Bogota Newspaper EL TIEMPO, in which former Colombian Foreign Minister Arturo Vasquez Carrizosa asserts that Colombia should be present in the zone -- a matter which was considered an "intemperance" -- Consalvi replied:

"We cannot reply to an intemperance with another intemperance; therefore, I handle myself in that terrain with the equilibrium that my duties make necessary."

BRIEFS

BAZUKO HAUL -- The Judicial Technical Police seized 700 grams of bazuko [tobacco laced with cocaine] from a gang of drug traffickers on 2 October. Four of the leading members of the gang were arrested. They were identified as Dominicans Eltor Rafael Licil, 32, and Angelina Medina Ortiz, 26; and Colombians Alvaro Camacho Corredor, 29, and Juan Jose Alvarez Jurado, 28. The traffickers also had 700 counterfeit $100 bills which had been forged in Colombia and were to be passed in Caracas. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 4 Oct 85 p 4-30 PA]

MARIJUANA SEIZED -- Caracas, 9 Oct (AFP) -- The Judicial Technical Police have seized 800 kg of marijuana near Cupira, 150 km east of Caracas. The marijuana was wrapped in tinfoil and was being transported from Colombia to Caracas in a vehicle camouflaged as a fuel tank truck by traffickers Benigno Escalante, Jose Manuel Valles, and Ana Elena Fernandez. Valles was captured earlier this year with 3,000 liters of ether (which is used to manufacture cocaine) in central Venezuela, but was freed by a criminal court a short time later. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0214 GMT 10 Oct 85 PA]

GOVERNMENT URGES SOUTH AFRICA TO END APARTHEID

FL171507 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1424 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Foreign Secretariat has sent the UN Secretary General and the president of the African National Congress [ANC] the following message urging the South African government to commute the death sentence pronounced against ANC member Benjamin Maloise.

The Foreign Secretariat indicates that the government of Mexico, in accordance with its traditional policy opposing apartheid, supports decisively the international community's demands for the South African Government to commute the death sentence pronounced against Mr Maloise.

Mexico's Government expresses once more its opposition to the death penalty, which it considers an insult to man's dignity. The Government of Mexico also reaffirms the need to adopt measures, in agreement with international law, to force Pretoria's government to end the racist apartheid system.

This is why our country supports efforts by the international community as a whole and by the UN secretary general and the president of the ANC aimed at South Africa's commutation of the death sentence pronounced against Mr Maloise.

GUATEMALA'S MEJIA VICTORES MAKES 1-DAY VIST

FL172050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1925 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Excerpts] Tapachula, Mexico, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- At the welcoming ceremony for Guatemalan President Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid said the Central American countries have to decide their own future without interference from abroad and with negotiations instead of acts of aggression. He said Mexico wants to be a good brother, neighbor, and friend of Guatemala and underscored his government's willingness to seek solutions to common problems and strengthen reciprocal cooperation in all aspects. Mexicans believe this has been insufficient to date, he said.

In the speech he gave on the occasion of the arrival of Mejia Victores at the airport of Tapachula, Chiapas state, the Mexican chief of state mentioned his great concern over the tensions that exist in Central America, affirming that Mexico insists on the need for a solution based on absolute repect for free self-determination and for the peaceful solution of controversies.

The Mexican president spoke of the international economic situation, in which a disorder exists that affects the financial and monetary systems of the relatively weak nations. He spoke of foreign debts that weigh excessively on our economies and of restrictions on foreign trade, saying that our exports have no guaranteed access to markets, which without doubt weakens our economies. He said these factors are prejudicial to world peace and social peace. He called upon Mexico and Guatemala to make an imaginative, serious, and responsible effort together with all the brother countries of Latin America to find ways to overcome the present situation.

The chief executive underscored his intention to amplify and strengthen bilateral relations between Mexico and Guatemala, saying that we are joined by shared history, cultural roots, and economic relations. We want to solve our problems like neighbors, he said, stressing interest in fulfilling our obligations to the Guatemalan workers who are living temporarily in Mexican territory.

We are determined to reinforce our actions to protect human rights, he said. This includes the right of our brothers to work when they come to Mexico, he said. He also mentioned his intention to strengthen ties with Guatemala in matters related to development, trade, and the economy.

Mejia Victores began his 7 and 1/2 hour visit to Mexico at 1030, arriving on board an F-27 aircraft of the Guatemalan Air Force accompanied by various high officials. He was received by President De la Madrid, who was accompanied by six secretaries of state including Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda.

A state dinner and a second round of conversations are planned. A joint communique will be issued on the visit, which will end shortly before 1800.

Mejia Notes Shared Goals

FL172124 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1940 GMT 17 Oct 85

[By Gregorio Alpizar]

[Excerpts] Tapachula, Mexico, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) -- Guatemalan President Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores said here today that despite the difficult situation in Central America, the possibilities of achieving peace and impeding war between brothers have not been exhausted. In the speech he gave when beginning a state visit to Mexico of approximately 7 hours, the Guatemalan chief executive reiterated his government's support for the peace negotiations being carried out by the Contadora Group, expressing his belief that Contadora is the only forum for reaching a negotiated understanding and solution.

The situation in Central America is difficult, he said. It may be one of the world's greatest points of tension, but we believe war breaks out only when all political efforts have failed, Mejia Victores said. After President Miguel de la Madrid had welcomed him, Mejia Victores said the possibilities of political accommodation have not been exhausted and that there is a possibility of peace instead of war between Central American brothers.

Mejia Victores spoke of the understandings the two presidents can reach in their conversations today regarding shared problems. There is a reason why we are brothers, Mejia Victores said when discussing the solid bilateral relations that exist between the two countries.

The Guatemalan head of state told President De la Madrid that he will keep his promise of free elections so that Guatemala may return to a constitutional government on 3 November 1985, when elections will be held.

On 14 January 1986 we will give Guatemala a new democratic government, and we will give Guatemala something more: a new friendship and brotherhood with Mexico such as we used to have, he concluded.

ABADIA ON ECUADOR, NICARAGUA BREAK, CONTADORA

PA171256 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0205 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Panama City, 16 Oct (DPA) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias asserted today that "the rupture of diplomatic relations between Ecuador and Nicaragua is very deplorable." The head of Panamanian diplomacy said: "These matters do not help in the least attaining the harmony we need so much in Latin America to counter our many problems jointly." Abadia also said: "We all must deplore this rupture, even though he always respect governments' decisions."

Abadia referred to various topics during a meeting with foreign correspondents and stated that "the internal problem in Panama does not change the Contadora Group's peace process at all." He gave ample explanations of how "the internal problems, the incidents in every country, do not affect the peace process, must less the Contadora Group's meetings."

He referred to the meetings between the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers and the Central American plenipotentiary representatives, which will be renewed tomorrow on Contadora Island, and said: "I hope that they prove fruitful; we must bear in mind that critical matters are being discsused."

Abadia added: "These meetings between the deputy foreign ministers and plenipotentiary representatives are very important because it is there that all the guidelines of a possible document for peace in the region are analyzed." "I am always optimistic," he said when asked if he believes the Contadora document will be signed before 20 November, the date on which the established deadline expires.

He also referred to other matters, such as United States-Panamanian relations and an eventual meeting of the Latin American presidents in Panama City, which was discussed 3 months ago in Cartagena. On the former, he said: "These relations are based on mutual respect. I do not give much credit to certain reports which talk about the suspension of U.S. credits for my country."

On the latter, he explained that "a meeting of Latin American presidents represents a great deal. If it is to be attained, we must first have a specific agenda approved by all the participants; otherwise we would achieve very little."

DEL VALLE ADDRESSES CONATO, VIEWS LABOR CODE

PA170223 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] The leadership of the National Council of Organized Workers, Conato, met this afternoon to coordinate this month's activities and to analyze the labor situation affecting the country. Conato is being coordinated during the month of October by newswoman Norma Nunez, who headed the meeting held at the Union of Journalists of Panama.

The meeting discussed, among other things, the problem of unemployment and the amendments to the Labor Code. Today's meeting was attended by President Eric Arturo Del Valle. In his address to the Conato leadership, the chief of state made important announcements for the labor sector at national level.

[Begin Del Valle recording] We are all aware that in the Panamanian labor sector, the main problem is unemployment. I have said that solving this problem is the principal objective of my administration. We all know that the burden of unemployment falls on the the shoulders of the Panamanian working class. In the search for solutions in the labor sector, and determined to bolster the relations of trust and to strengthen the relations between the labor sector and the government, I want to express to you my disposition to start from kilometer zero. To me, this means that as of this moment there are no plans to amend the labor code. [applause]

When Alan Garcia assumed the Presidency of the Republic of Peru, he voiced an aspiration to renew in Panama the American amphictyony in order to examine our common problems, particularly the huge Latin American foreign debt, and to reaffirm our fraternal solidarity. Since then, other distinguished Latin American statesmen have expressed similar concerns.

Inspired by our historic tradition of promoting rapprochement and peaceful communication, we accepted the challenge of the Latin American nations and are pleased to offer Panama to host such an encounter. [applause] [end recording]

Later, at an impromptu news conference, the Panamanian chief executive referred to various topics of national interest.

[Begin Del Valle recording] I believe that we have to solve our internal problems. I am not going to stir up a national commotion by amending the labor code just because someone may ask us to do so. We know that the working class is conscientious, and I am sure that should there be anything to be modified or adjusted, it will be done jointly by the Panamanian people. We will prescribe our own medicine, and the dosage must beneficial to the patient. [end recording]

NORIEGA NOTES ANNIVERSARY OF 1968 COUP

PA171901 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Oct 85

[Excerpts] With a joyful reveille at dawn and the announcement of approximately 900 promotions, the most in their history, the Defense Forces of Panama began the commemoration of 11 October, the date marking the revolutionary deeds of 1968 when a group of military men led by General Omar Torrijos Herrera entered national life. The official ceremony began at 0500 with the sound of drums and bugles in the yard of the general headquarters of the Defense Force, the main doors of which were open to the public who, along with the men in uniform, expressed their solidarity, affection, support, and loyalty to the country's military institution. Meanwhile, Panamanian Air Force airplanes and helicopters flew over the general headquarters, while music was being played and fireworks were being set off.

At approximately 0630 General Manuel Antonio Noriega appeared in the yard of the general headquarters. He was received with expressions of affection and esteem. He was greeted by personal friends, ministers, members of his general staff, officers, and troops. Officials of government institutions were also present. Gen Noriega then addressed the crowd:

[Begin recording] Good morning all friends, subordinates, comrades in arms. We are speaking from this balcony to remember that on a day like this, on 11 October, all the people, youths, poor men, and abandoned students who never thought they might hold important positions took the path of the liberation of Panama with Torrijos as their leader. They went down in the pages of Panama's history along with Torrijos. [applause]

It was more than a coup d'etat. It was a coup of the popular forces. It was a coup of the popular power. That popular power is being threatened today, but never, I say never, will it be defeated. [applause]

Nowhere in the world is an armed garrison invaded by the popular forces. This is the garrison and the house of the people. [applause] Therefore, gentlemen, from here we will respond in the same measure that they threaten. Cheers! [end recording]

After his brief speech, Gen Noriega was questioned by national and foreign journalists on topics of general interest. Here are some of his most important remarks:

[Begin recording] [Noriega] This new anniversary shows renewed awareness that what was done in 1968 was the best thing, that the popular classes achieved their position in a society where they had been neglected, that those who had been unable to achieve important positions as leaders obtained this opportunity. The people's friendly presence here confirms that those who acted in 1968 were not mistaken.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think the Contadora Group will be able to achieve an agreement on military areas and obtain the signing of the peace document?

[Noriega] Contadora is a diplomatic matter. I think it needs very effective military advice from all the armies involved in the problem. One cannot solve a problem just in theory. It must also be solved in practice. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT REJECTS SANDINIST CHARGES OF AGGRESSION

PA180224 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] Responding to a protest note from the Sandinist regime, the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry has stated that La Esperanza is located 6 km north of the border, in Nicaraguan territory, and that the attack, if it ever occurred, took place in Nicaragua.

Rejecting the charges and the protest, the note sent by Acting Foreign Minister Gerardo Trejos regrets that the Sandinist People's Army cannot control its border as the Costa Rican Civil police does on its side, effectively and absolutely. In addition, the ministry rejected the charges contained in another note protesting attacks on 3 and 7 October on La Penca and the Nicaraguan delta, both in Nicaraguan territory.

The note that answered the Sandinists' protest added: The groundless charges filed against Costa Rica by the Nicaraguan Government can only be explained by the latter's desire to appear as the innocent victim of an aggression launched from Costa Rica, a country that has been unarmed for the past 36 years on its own volition and in which a policy of genuine and effective neutrality has been practiced in view of the Nicaraguan domestic conflict. The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry warned that, despite the good faith, wisdom, and moderation of the Costa Rican Government in its relations with Nicaragua, this government is not naive at all. The Monge government and, in general, all Costa Ricans are aware that the Nicaraguan Government's real purpose is to internationalize its domestic conflict and create the conditions to establish a demilitarized zone, that we consider both unnecessary and harmful, the minister concluded.

EL SALVADOR

AGREEMENT 'VIRTUALLY REACHED' ON DUARTE KIDNAPPING

PA171953 San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish 0430 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] With the mediation of the Salvadoran church, an agreement has virtually been reached with the guerrillas for the release of Ines Guadalupe Duarte and her friend Ana Cecilia Villeda. All that is left to agree on is the date, time, and place for the release.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Monsignor, we would like to know the most recent agreements made for the release of Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran.

[Unidentified monsignor] At 0900 yesterday, the archbishop [Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas] traveled to an area near Guazapa Hill where he met with FMLN leaders. He returned to San Salvador at 2100. The result of the archbishop's visit to the area is as follows:

An agreement with the insurgents was reached for the release, shortly, of President Duarte's daughter and her friend Ana Cecilia. Progress was also made toward the release of the mayors who were kidnapped. The happy ending to the kidnapping of the two women is expected in the next few days. Everyone is aware of the kidnapping and this incident has been followed by everyone with interest and concern. We hope to see some sign of a solution to the problem of the mayors soon.

The archbishop returned pleased with the results of the meeting. This was his second meeting with them. The first meeting was held on Saturday in Chalatenango where he met with FPL [People's Liberation Forces] leaders. At that meeting, they decided to meet again. The meeting was held yesterday at the place I already mentioned.

For the time being, we are working on the operational side of the outcome of this kidnapping. If no last minute difficulties are encountered, we expect everyone to have a happy ending shortly.

[Reporter] Monsignor, has a meeting between Monsignor Rivera y Damas and the guerrillas been scheduled for the next few days, or next week, to put the final touches on this situation?

[Monsignor] There are indications that the church will be represented when this situation comes to an end. The church has said that it is ready to help at the moment. This will depend on how the delivery of the two kidnapped women to their respective families will be made. We do not know how we will help, but it seems that we will be asked to help and we will do so gladly.

[Reporter] Monsignor, what requests have the government and the guerrillas made?

[Monsignor] What they are asking for is public. Communiques appeared in the newspapers with the requests. What I do know is that the most difficult aspects of the negotiations have been overcome. However, the parties involved must be the ones to report on this. We have not been authorized to disclose that information. [end recording]

The negotiations underway include a search for an agreement for the release of the kidnapped mayors; however, no definite arrangement has been made. UCA [Central American University] rector (Ignacio Iyacuria) was present at the meeting between Monsignor Rivera y Damas and the guerrillas.

Duarte Says 'Nothing Concrete'

PA172006 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Report by Alberto Barrera]

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte told journalists today that he had nothing concrete regarding the fulfillment of the demands of the kidnappers of his daughter, Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran. The president was questioned by journalists in San Bartolome Perulapina where he arrived this morning accompanied by government officials, including the education minister, to inaugurate a school that was damaged some time ago in clashes with the guerrillas. It was also reported that U.S. Ambassador Edward Corr was present, since it was precisely through U.S. loans that the school was rebuilt.

The president was interviewed by journalists about the cassette that Ines Guadalupe Duarte reportedly sent through San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas. Asked to comment about the release of 21 mayors and the 3 municipal officials who were kidnapped by the guerrillas during the past 5 months, President Duarte said the following:

[Begin recording] [Duarte] I can tell you that I am making a great effort to save both my daughter and the mayors. I have [words indistinct] the proposals that they made. [sentence indistinct] We have fulfilled all of this and we hope that [passage indistinct].

In this regard, the monsignor yesterday gave the information [words indistinct] I do not know the details. I know what he said over the radio because this was reported to me, but I do not know the details. I do not have any communications that [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Regarding the cassette sent through Msgr Rivera y Damas, President Duarte said that on the cassette Ines Guadalupe thanked the monsignor and gave thanks to God for the efforts that the church is making. Regarding the fulfillment of the demands of the guerrillas, he said: I do not yet have anything concrete. I am waiting for the archbishop to give me the proposal this morning -- at this time Duarte should have already received it -- to see what we can do. Regarding the nine cases that they mentioned and that have not yet been clarified, the president said that he has investigated all of the cases. Duarte said that this has been the general policy of the government. He said: I have made a great effort and you -- referring to the journalists -- know well that I have given the information to the church. Therefore, we have made the utmost effort and I hope this will show the people how we want to do things.

Sunday Release Possible

PA171947 San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] [Salvadoran Communications Minister] Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes stated during a new conference today at noon that the president's daughter and her girlfriend may be released on Sunday. The time and place are not known. He said there will be an exchange, that 21 rebels and the Costa Rican pilot Talavera will be released. He admitted that German official Hans-Jurgen Wischnewski is taking part in the negotiations.

Possible Agreement Within 'Hours'

PA172038 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2000 GMT 17 Oct 85

[By Alberto Barrera]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Oct (REUTER) -- Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's oldest daughter, kidnapped 37 days ago by leftist guerrillas, will be released in the next few hours. This was announced today by a source involved in the negotiations for the release.

The source, who asked not to be identified, added that an agreement was reportedly reached and that it will include the release of Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran, her friend, and the 21 mayors and 3 municipal officials who are also being held by the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the government reportedly agreed to release the 22 rebels it has in its hands and investigate the whereabouts of the other 9 rebels who disappeared after being arrested. The government will also authorize a group of injured fighters, currently in the combat zones, to leave the country.

The negotiations were carried out by a special Catholic Church commission and some of the agreements are reportedly being carried out, like allowing the departure of the injured guerrillas, the source added.

Despite the possible agreement for the release of the president's daughter, the sources consulted said that this does not mean that the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas will be resumed.

However, the sources said that "this at least has been a dialogue through mediators who have realized that it is possible to reach agreements if stubborn stances are not adopted and if there is moderation. [no end quotation marks as received]

FMLN'S ZAMORA HOPES FOR RESUMED DIALOGUE

PA172251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1941 GMT 16 Oct 85

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 16 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran guerrillas are expecting the Catholic Church to fulfill its triple role as mediator, moderator, and witness in the dialogue for peace process with the government of Jose Napoleon Duarte a top leader of the rebels has said.

Ruben Zamora, member of the politico-diplomatic commission of the Salvadoran guerrillas, recalled today during an interview with ACAN-EFE that the archbishop of San Salvador, Arturo Rivera y Damas has been accepted as a mediator "and we expect him to fulfill his role in a most effective manner."

Zamora disclosed that during a recent meeting of the rebels of the "FMLN-FDR" (Revolutionary Democratic Front), it was confirmed there is a willingness to meet "immediately" with representatives of the Salvadoran Government in order to organize preparatory private meetings and later semi-public meetings, but inside the country.

The guerrilla leader ruled out the possibility of presenting a new proposal to President Duarte for holding a third meeting, after having made four proposals so far this year with specific dates and places.

"The FMLN-FDR cannot be making new proposals, after the Salvadoran Government has rejected four previous ones, and therefore it is about time the authorities take the dialogue process seriously and not play with it as a publicity stunt," Zamora warned.

On the first anniversary of the beginning of the talks, Zamora said that the rebels flatly reject the "maneuver" of Duarte who proposed that prior to holding a third meeting, it is necessary to hold a preparatory meeting in Costa Rica.

Zamora pointed out to ACAN-EFE that public or private meetings outside El Salvador bring up the problem of privacy, but that condition would not depend only on the "FMLN-FDR" and the Duarte government, but on the third country who would have to be informed when they agreed that such meetings could be held in their territory.

"We believe," Zamora added, "that with this maneuver, Duarte is planning to remove the dialogue far from the view of the masses, but also outside the country, in order to say he is holding meetings abroad and because they are private and secret, he can tell everyone he is holding talks, but that no advance is being made."

According to Zamora, Duarte himself following the first dialogue held at La Palma (El Salvador) on 15 October last year, voiced his opposition to "internationalizing" the dialogue.

The second meeting was held at Ayagualo Canton, near San Salvador, 45 days after the beginning of the meetings.

"Duarte must maintain this stand and not change as a sail in the wind by taking the dialogue out of the country which is something the people are opposed to," Zamora insisted.

The rebel leader emphasized to ACAN-EFE that he sees no contradictions between the development of war and the policy of dialogue and negotiations proposed by the guerrillas since 1981. "We believe," Zamora added, "that everywhere there have been political solutions, it shows that both the U.S. Government as well as those usurping power do not accept a negotiated solution, unless there is a military force on the other side."

"The war has expanded and the FMLN is now operating in a much larger area than that of 1 and 1/2 years ago. The war has increased and the FMLN shows it is capable of carrying out heavy actions such as the recent attack against the Salvadoran Army training center," the rebel leader said.

"We hope this will serve so that both the Armed Forces as well as the Americans and Duarte may think over the need for a political solution," Zamora told ACAN-EFE.

VENCEREMOS READS KIDNAPPED MAYORS' LETTER

PA180142 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Attention. We will now read a letter to Eng Jose Napoleon Duarte from the mayors captured by the FMLN in the northeastern part of the country. The text of the letter follows:

Mr Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of the Republic:

By way of this letter, we the mayors who are prisoners of war of the FMLN, detained in the northeastern part of the country, address you to ask you to personally make the necessary decisions to obtain our release. It has been many months of captivity. We have been treated well, and our physical and moral integrity has been respected at all times. However, being deprived of freedom for an indefinite period weighs upon us and our worried families.

At times, our situation has worsened because our lives have been in danger. One of the most difficult times we experienced was on 14 July when the Salvadoran Air Force intensely and directly bombed the detention center. It seems to us that at that time there was an effort to get rid of our case, by seeking our physical elimination.

A few days prior to this bombing the former mayor of San Luis de la Reina was released by the FMLN, and it is believed that the information he gave the Armed Forces was used for the air attack on the detention center. It is not possible for us to come to any other conclusion because we have undergone several months of physical captivity, resulting from the lack of concern of your government.

We cannot accept this, or take as a sign of concern the speeches given by several Christian Democratic leaders regretting our capture, and accusing the FMLN of violating our human rights. No one in El Salvador is unaware of the war, or that it is a war between the government formed by the Christian Democratic Party, [PDC], and the FMLN guerrillas up in arms.

We the mayors, with a greater or lesser degree of awareness, at the moment we became mayors, became part of the government.

Unfortunately it fell to us to assume this condition in one of the most conflictive zones in the country. We would have needed the constant security of the Armed Forces to be safe in our localities, but this was not possible and this is why we are where we are. If your government views the FMLN's actions against your municipal officials as violations of human rights, and not as part of the war the FMLN is waging against the power that we represent, then who will continue making the mistake of risking humble persons like ourselves in those positions, when the consequences will not be responsibly accepted.

To be conscientious regarding this situation, we ask only one question. Would Morales Erhlich, mayor of San Salvador, come to replace us in our positions in any of the municipalities that we represent, taking into account the high degree of conflicts in those zones? We sincerely believe he would not. Taking into account [word indistinct], we believe that to resolve our case, it is not a matter of waiting for a favor from the FMLN, it is a matter of convincing them that we are not part of the government, and that their [word indistinct] against the government violates human rights.

At this point in the war, this is not enough. It solves nothing and is not believed by anyone.

The FMLN has presented demands to your government for our release. We are concerned over the silence that your government has maintained for several months. The capture of workers, residents, members of cooperatives, teachers, students, and many other people unrelated to war -- detentions that have been pointed out as human rights violations for a number of years -- complicates our situation even further because it allows the FMLN to carry out actions against any government official and lessens the government's authority to label actions against it as human rights violations. There is a big difference between a captured mayor and a missing worker. The first will always be considered a government official, committed to war one way or another, while the second will always be seen as a poor workers victimized by repression. Clearly, the most logical thing would be for the government to reach an accord with the FMLN to have us released. We cannot keep calm and harbor hope for an indefinite time. Anyone in our place would ask: Why do the government, the PDC, the other parties, and the Armed Forces -- all who attached so much importance to us and convinced us to assume our posts as mayors -- treat us with so much indifference [words indistinct] now that we are prisoners? [Words indistinct]. We are sure that you are doing your best to ensure your daughter's release. It is true our families cannot do what you do for the release of your daughter. All the same, our families' suffering is great. Our anxiety is not any less than your daughter's.

Now that you make efforts to secure the release of your daughter Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran, may we ask that you, as president of the Republic, personally try to meet the FMLN's demands in exchange for our freedom.

[Signed] [Words indistinct] Lolotique: Francisco Israel Diaz; Nueva Esparta: Virgilio Rios; Cualococti; Juan Olivardia; [words indistinct] Yoloaiquin [words indistinct]

FMLN LIFTS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION BAN

PA180229 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people, attention. We report to all our people and the transportation sector that as of today, 17 October, the national strike against the transportation sector which was ordered by the FMLN General Command has been lifted.

This national strike lasted 14 days. Neither the Army, the high command, or Duarte were able to stop this strike, which was carried out so effectively throughout the country's highways! Fourteen days of a national transportation strike, which resulted in millions in losses for the oligarchy, millions in losses for the Duarte dictatorship!

END TO 'COMPULSORY RECRUITMENT' PROPOSED

PA171338 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Oct 85

["Text" of FMLN General Command "communique" proposing elimination of compulsory recruitment to the Salvadoran Armed Forces -- read by announcer]

[Text] Among the main problems to be solved in an attempt to humanize the conflict affecting and involving the entire nation is the compulsory recruitment whereby the government Armed Forces obligates thousands of youths to join its ranks. For several years now, various labor, social, and religious organizations across the country have been demanding the right to exclude the youths whose consciences and religion so dictate from the compulsory recruitment program.

Concerning compulsory recruitment, it is necessary to first give a specific step, within the dialogue, in searching for the humanization of the war. In order to facilitate this step, the FMLN makes the following proposal:

1. The Salvadoran conflict is an internal conflict. The nation is divided. Each Salvadoran has the right to take sides freely or refuse to be incorporated in a violent and forced manner into the army of either of the two belligerent sides. Joining combat in the internal conflict can only be legitimate if it is voluntary.

2. Continuing with the compulsory recruitment violates basic human rights, such as the right to life, freedom of thought, and freedom of political affiliation of all those who are forced to fight.

3. Thus, in the particular case of El Salvador where an internal civil war is taking place, our people and, therefore the FMLN-FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front] voices the right of the Salvadoran youth to object the policy of waging war on its own people.

4. Interpreting the will of the people as the means of reaching the overall political solution of the conflict, the FMLN officially proposes that the Napoleon Duarte government sign an agreement whereby the government's Armed Forces and our fronts commit themselves to respect the principle that joining to take up arms in this civil war is an act of conscience that is strictly voluntary, and that, therefore, recruitment is legitimate only when achieved by persuading and convincing. On our part, this agreement can be accepted immediately. All that is missing is for the government's positive response.

If this agreement is put into effect, no foreign factor will continue to impose extension of the war on our country. Compulsory recruitment is hindering the political solution of the conflict inasmuch as the massive incorporation of forced recruits is the element that, added to the weapons and dollars from the United States, is artifically prolonging the war. Evidently, the struggle against compulsory recruitment is a deeply patriotic cause inasmuch as the artificial prolongation of the war entails the successive escalation of the U.S. military intervention in our country, whose forces are reaching the extreme of an invasion by its troops.

Therefore, we urge the Salvadoran youths and the soldiers who are determined not to continue fighting to struggle for the right to refuse to be recruited by force. Parents, with all reason and justice, should reject being forcefully deprived of their sons who are taken to be killed or maimed. We urge you to present your charges against compulsory recruitment to the national and international organizations that defend human rights, the press, the International Red Cross, and the mediator of the dialogue, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, so that these charges be taken to the two belligerent parties and made public knowledge.

We call on our people and on the people's organizations, churches, professional organizations, and universities to broadly discuss this serious and specific proposal of the FMLN in order to humanize the war, shorten it, and advance toward an overall political solution.

The FMLN will take this proposal to the negotiating table at the meeting next week. The dialogue is currently blocked by the government, and it is necessary to activate it and march toward the just peace the Salvadoran people demand.

[Signed] General Command of the FMLN: Commanders Jorge Shafick Handal, Leonel Gonzalez, Joaquin Villalobos, Ferman Cienfuegos, and Roberto Roca

REBEL RADIO URGES GOVERNMENT TO HOLD TALKS

PA170139 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] A long process of efforts by the FMLN to initiate talks between the two forces in dispute in the present Salvadoran conflict was completed at the La Palma meeting. At that meeting, our fronts clearly expressed the intention of initiating a path that would lead to a fair agreement, based on our people's desire for peace and justice.

At that time, there was an apparent positive attitude on the part of Duarte's government, combined with the partisan promotion and (?publicity) gained by their presence in La Palma. To a great extent, Duarte's actions in this historical event were an effort to receive from the U.S. Congress a new loan in the form of military aid to continue the war. At Ayagualo, the FDR-FMLN again met with (?government) representatives, as agreed upon at La Palma. However, at the second meeting, despite the drastic actions adopted by our fronts in search of an arrangement, the Duarte regime was hardened. Nevertheless, in Ayagualo it was said that the establishment of a political effort would have the people's support and sympathy. Within this framework, our fronts presented a wide-ranging proposal that contrasted -- in the people's eyes -- with the absurd and unreal proposals expressed by the government delegates.

Throughout 1985, the Duarte government has rejected three FDR-FMLN proposals to continue the dialogue. Prior to this year's municipal elections, Duarte and his followers felt that the dialogue was not dead, but they conditioned the dialogue to the results of the electoral event. In response to the oligarchy's pressure, Duarte relegated the dialogue to the lowest position, but in response to growing popular pressure, (?he saw that) he could not reject the dialogue, which had been the favorite slogan of his propaganda. In response to this final clamor, [words indistinct] the regime could not ignore the dialogue.

Duarte even established probable dates, although very vaguely. After the elections, Duarte could only follow Ronald Reagan's Central American policies: the breaking off of the Monzanillo talks with Nicaragua, the boycott of Contadora, full support for the contras, and the breaking off of the Salvadoran peace process. All of this favors a military solution and the deepening of the U.S. influence in the region.

With this warmongering mentality and with the support of the Yankees, Duarte believes that he can defeat the FMLN, reactivate (?energy), and resolve the conflict once and for all in favor of his imperialist and oligarchic bosses. However, neither Duarte nor his bosses have been able to keep this hope alive for long. Step by step, the FMLN has defeated the new levels of war with which Duarte tried to rob us of our military initiative. The Salvadoran people and their vanguard toppled and displaced the U.S. counter-insurgent plan. While they deepen the war, we inflict blow after blow on the deepest part of its foundations.

If the regime persists in seeking a military solution and employs all of its resources in this effort, then the FMLN will turn its Army, its (?archives), its highways, and its economy into ashes. The FMLN has the full capacity to attack any objective at the regime's rearguard, and this has been well demonstrated. The FMLN has the support of the working masses who are our strength and our source for recruits for new legions of fighters. The FMLN has the support of the peoples of the world, who are in solidarity with our just fight -- including the American people themselves, who are opposed to intervention in Central America, and the (?southern) plan, as well as the emergence of another Vietnam in the region.

The final goal of our struggle is peace. We are working to construct authentic peace that will bring [word indistinct] and justice to the traditionally poor sectors of our country. With this spirit, we will save this people from all of the pain and suffering that the prolongation of the conflict would bring. The FMLN firmly believes in a dialogue, a sincere dialogue that will aim at solving our people's basic problems. The FMLN will keep the doors to dialogue open as long as necessary as a legitimate alternative to end the war.

In response to Duarte's militarist solution, a national [words indistinct] solution, dialogue, and negotiation to achieve peace.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CANCELS VISITS TO U.S. UNIVERSITIES

PA172100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2035 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Managua, 17 Oct (AFP) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has cancelled the trip he was planning to make next week to eight cities in the United States in view of the U.S. Government's delay in granting his entry visa. The Nicaraguan president was planning to visit several states following his speech at the UN General Assembly on 24 October.

An official spokesman said that despite the fact that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry presented the request for the visa last week, neither President Ortega nor any other member of his support group that was planning his tour to several U.S. universities have been authorized entry into the United States.

The delay in granting the visas prompted the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry to issue a protest note on Wednesday to the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz saying that this showed "contempt for the international commitments and even the United Nations."

The president is scheduled to leave for New York on Friday, stopping over in Mexico, it was learned from sources close to the government, yet less than 24 hours prior to his departure, he still had not obtained a reply to his request for a visa to enter U.S. territory.

MINISTER BORGE REVEALS THWARTED 'TERRORIST PLOT'

PA180053 Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] Managua, 17 Oct (AFP) -- The state security organizations in the past few hours aborted a "terrorist plot" which included, among other objectives, blowing up the Soviet Aeroflot Airline office and several state offices and installations, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge revealed tonight. Borge said that the authorities managed to arrest four persons before the plan was carried out.

Recently Borge announced another "terrorist" plot which was thwarted by the seizure of at least 400 kilos of explosives, with which the anti-Sandinist groups sought "to sow terror in several cities of the country."

GOVERNMENT BANS NEW CHURCH PUBLICATION

PA140233 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 13 Oct 85

[Text] Managua, 13 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist regime has banned the circulation of a newspaper of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church and confiscated all of its material, the director of the publication, Msgr Bismarck Carballo, has charged here today.

In a telephone interview with ACAN-EFE, the director of the newspaper, Bismarck Carballo, charged here that last night some Sandinist policemen detained the distributor of the religious bulletin and then seized a large amount of the material of the publishing firm.

The newspaper LA IGLESIA is an 8-page tabloid which was being published yesterday for the first time on the occasion of the fifth centennial of the evangelization (12 October 1492) of the Catholic Church in America.

The Sandinist policemen forced an employee of the publishing house to look for some of the material that had already been distributed and the plates of the newspaper, Carballo said.

Carballo, who is also the director of the Catholic radio station, was surprised that the Managua regime had confiscated the newspaper because he had met all the requirements with the Sandinist communications media office.

"They told me there were no problems," he said. However, the Sandinist authorities changed their minds and decided to confiscate the newspaper material and prohibited its circulation and registration. Bismarck Carballo will go see the Sandinist authorities tomorrow to learn of the situation of his confiscated and banned newspaper.

A few days ago, 15 foreign priests who work for the Catholic Curia in Managua were summoned by immigration authorities and approximately 6 seminarians were drafted into the compulsory military service, the Nicaraguan Episcopal Confederation (CEN) has charged. As of now, relations between the church and the state are tense and no rapprochement or dialogue is foreseen.

Curia Offices Searched

PA151912 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1731 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Managua, 15 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Militarymen, under orders from a state security officer today searched an office of the archepiscopal curia in this capital, without explaining the reason for their search, a church spokesman reported.

Msgr Bismarck Carballo, spokesman for Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, told ACAN-EFE that the Sandinist militarymen occupied the curia in the Altagracia neighborhood in the capital, which formerly was the headquarters of the country's Apostolic Nunciature.

The clergyman added that the search operation at the curia, where the church's social pastoral department operates, was directed by State Security General Director Commander Lenin Cerna and chief of operations Captain Oscar Loza. The spokesman added that all the personnel working at the church offices were evacuated from the building.

"I also was taken from the building in a violent manner," Msgr Carballo explained.

The spokesman for the archepiscopal curia of Managua stressed that the Sandinist authorities' entering the curia offices could be related to the banning of the newspaper LA IGLESIA, the official paper of Nicaraguan eclessiastic authorities. Msgr Carballo said that the entire publication, as well as the newspaper's printing plates were given to the police. He added that today Cardinal Obando y Bravo is on a pastoral visit to the city of Santa Teresa, 60 km south of Managua, but that when he returns he will be informed of the incident.

Carballo Evicted From COPROSA

PA152253 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2135 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Managua -- Members of the Sandinist State Security today raided the offices of the Archdiocesan Social Promotion Commission [Comision de Promocion Social Arquidiocesana], Coprosa, and violently evicted Msgr Bismarck Carballo, spokesman of the archbishopric, according to Catholic Church sources.

According to the first reports, the State Security officials remained at the Coprosa offices, where a bimonthly bulletin called LA IGLESIA is printed. The first edition was confiscated over the weekend.

The archbishopric spokesmen said that the authorities also banned Msgr Bosco Vivas, secretary of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Confederation, CEN, from the offices. There is no official report on the incident.

Interior Ministry Communique

PA170358 Managua International Service in Spanish 0247 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Nicaraguan Interior Ministry communique issued in Managua; no date given -- read by unidentified announcer]

[Text] The Interior Ministry reports to the people that:

1. The Interior Ministry's Directorate of the Communications Media, upon learning about Father Bismarck Carballo's intention to publish a newspaper, told him to comply with the corresponding legal procedures which have been established for these cases.

2. Father Carballo, spokesman of the archbishopric curia, published the first edition of the newspaper without complying with the regulations or waiting for the corresponding authorization; the newspaper's contents were not religious but highly political and openly attacking the revolution's defense policy, particularly the mandatory military service.

3. This action compelled the authorities to withdraw the newspaper from circulation and intervene -- upon instructions from the Justice Ministry -- in the entity identified as Coprosa [Archdiocesan Social Promotion Commission] and related dependencies located at Altagracia Neighborhood, as they had violated Articles 2, 3, 7, Paragraph B, of the General Law on News Media; Article 9 of this law and Article 4, Paragraph B of the Revolutionary Government's Decree No 1,074. In addition, Mr Carballo has systematically refused to abide by the rules of the Directorate of the Communications Media concerning the broadcasts of the radio station where he works as manager.

5. [numbers as heard] Mr Carballo has publicly stated, according to reports from international news agencies, that our authorities took over the archbishopric curia's offices; this irresponsible information is a deliberate lie to confuse the international community and clearly harmonizes with the clear decision of a politicized church sector to counter the revolution. This attitude by the archbishopric curia's spokesman represents a clear and open challenge to the authorities of any constitutional government and is absolutely intolerable.

CDN SAYS RIGHTS SUSPENSION WILL INCREASE STRUGGLE

PA172337 Paris AFP in Spanish 2212 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Managua, 17 Oct (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) warned that the suspension of the individual rights decreed by the Sandinist Government "will only justify the warmongering action of the counterrevolution."

In a communique released today, Thursday, the CDN also indicated that by establishing a national emergency -- which suspends constitutional rights for 1 year -- the government "seeks to create arguments that will permit it to evade signing the Contadora document."

President Daniel Ortega suspended the rights of information, expression, association, transit, inviolability of communications and correspondence, the right to strike, and the right of habeas corpus 2 days ago after affirming that an internal "conspiracy" was afoot.

The CDN affirmed that the decree "makes more remote the possibilities of peace and concord among the Nicaraguans and radicalizes the struggle that is underway in the country."

The opposition alliance, composed of the Social Democrat, Social Christian, Constitutionalist Liberal, and Conservative Parties as well as the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), stressed that the suppression of guarantees will prevent the citizens from expressing their views on the content of the new constitution, which will then "respond totally to the ideological manner of thinking of the Sandinist Front."

CULTURE MINISTER DENIES PRESS CENSORSHIP

PA171619 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1205 GMT 15 Oct 85

[Text] Nuremberg (FRG), 15 Oct (EFE) -- Nicaraguan Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal has denied the existence of press censorship in Nicaragua while accusing the United States of advancing a campaign to discredit the Managua regime. Cardenal denied the charges that there is no freedom of opinion or press in Nicaragua during a news conference last night in Nuremberg.

The Nicaraguan minister stated that the United States has mounted a campaign of slander against the Sandinist revolution to discredit it in view of its failure to find an opportunity to invade his country. Cardenal, winner of the 1980 German publishers peace prize, said that Nicaragua is being forced to invest money and efforts in defense instead of in the promotion of social development.

LA PRENSA TO ADHERE TO NEW CENSORSHIP LAWS

PA171252 Paris AFP in Spanish 1544 GMT 16 Oct 85

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 16 Oct (AFP) -- Jaime Chamorro, director of the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA, said today that he is saddened by the censorship of information imposed in his country, but that he will adhere to it.

Chamorro, who is attending a meeting of the IAPA in Cartagena, described the steps taken to suspend civil rights and guarantees in Nicaragua as normal and stated that these measures "do not surprise us." In an impromptu press conference, Chamorro admitted that he is afraid, but added that "all struggles involve risks," and he pointed out that even though it is painful to accept censorship, "it is a sacrifice in the search for democracy." He said that censorship of Nicaraguan newspapers has always existed, and he added that President Daniel Ortega's announcement yesterday "merely reaffirms and toughens a measure that curtails democracy."

"This is a means of legalizing something that has existed for a long time," Chamorro said. He explained, however, that "it is impossible that this new order will deteriorate the present situation even further."

Chamorro said that LA PRENSA will continue to circulate "because it is our duty to the Nicaraguan people," and he indicated that "there is always something to say, something to report, despite the severe censorship." "The Nicaraguan people hope that democracy will return some day," the journalist said. He indicated that LA PRENSA is a symbol for the people who are in the struggle." "We will obey the censorship and even though we cannot criticize the government or talk about its faults, we will always inform with the hope that one day, Nicaragua will again be a republic," Chamorro said.

Chamorro explained that one of LA PRENSA's objectives is to prevent Nicaraguans from falling into the sphere of communism, a system that he described as "oppressive and totalitarian." The director of LA PRENSA dismissed any possibility of giving up journalism, and said that he believes that "our presence is valid as a symbol in Nicaragua."

He said that not only journalists have had to submit to the Sandinist regime; the church, politicians and private enterprise have also had to do so while waiting for the day when democracy returns to Nicaragua. Chamorro announced that he will return to Managua this weekend to continue directing LA PRENSA which, he reiterated, will adhere to the new rules on information that Daniel Ortega's Sandinist government has adopted.

URUGUAYAN DECREE ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH CUBA

FL171844 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti signed a decree today allowing resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba. This information was revealed after a joint meeting of international affairs commissions of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, where Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias presented a report. As planned, ambassadors from Cuba and Uruguay to Geneva international organizations made the official announcement at Geneva's UN Headquarters.

RAJIV GANDHI TO ARRIVE IN HAVANA 21 OCT

FL091650 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Oct 85

[Text] New Delhi -- President of the Nonaligned countries and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will make his first Latin American visit when he arrives in Havana on 21 October at the invitation of Cuban President Fidel Castro. Gandhi, India's youngest prime minister, at 40 years of age is confronting one of India's most difficult eras since its independence.

Despite his youth, Gandhi has become the leader of the 700 million inhabitants of India from whom he received in last year's elections a mandate never before received by the ruling congressional party which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Envoy on Importance of Visit

FL171852 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 85

[Text] [Announcer] We are talking with Mr Mangalmurti, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of India in Cuba. Mr. Mangalmurti, what importance do you give to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to our country?

[Mangalmurti] Our relations with Cuba have been characterized by cordiality and understanding. The leaders of our two countries frequently exchange views. Cuba presided over the Nonaligned Countries Movement before India. Naturally, it is necessary to consult on many matters related to the Nonaligned Countries Movement. Our two countries maintain bilateral agreements on trade, culture, and cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

As a developing country, India shares many problems similar to those of the Latin American countries. This is the first time an Indian chief of government will visit Cuba.

CASTRO MESSAGE TO GDR ON NATIONAL DAY

AU101927 East Berlin NEVES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8 Oct 85 p 7

[Text] To Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council; To Comrade Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers:

Dear Comrades:

On the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the founding of the GDR, I would like to convey to the SED Central Committee, the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and the entire people of the GDR fraternal and most cordial congratulations from the people, the Communist Party, the State Council, and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

We note with particular pleasure that the GDR celebrates this significant date with new and worthy successes in implementing the decisions of the 10th SED Party Congress, which are expressed in the further, higher development in the economic and social fields for the welfare of the people and the consolidation of the community of socialist states. For many years the secure leadership of the SED and the dedicated efforts of the people of the GDR have made it possible for a country, once destroyed by war, to now be a firm bastion of socialism in the center of Europe.

In view of the exacerbated international situation, provoked by the repeated attempts of North American imperialism and its allies to achieve military superiority, which endangers the future of mankind, the GDR, together with the USSR and the other socialist countries, has undertaken the necessary countermeasures and developed manifold activities for safeguarding peace, implementing the policy of peaceful coexistence, and reaching detente.

In today's dangerous international situation the underdeveloped countries are suffering from the pressure of enormous and unpayable foreign debts as a result of the unjust international economic order, which was established by the imperialist powers.

Socialism is not only a hope of solidarity for these countries, which are subjected to the most rapacious exploitation, it is also the best opportunity for development and the only way for social justice in a world that is dominated by voracity, injustice, and exploitation. With great satisfaction we appreciate the high development of our bilateral relations in the most varied fields. The signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between our two countries has contributed to giving new stimuli to our firm and inviolable fraternal alliance.

I take this opportunity to once more express best wishes for further success in building the developed socialist society in the interest of the welfare of the fraternal GDR people, as well as in preparing and holding the 11th SED Party Congress.

Dear Comrades, please accept our fraternal and most cordial greetings as well as best wishes for health and personal well-being.

Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

SANCTIONS ISSUE DEBATED; BRITISH OPPOSITION

HK180522 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 18 Oct 85

[By Michael Lewis]

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Oct 18 (AFP) -- British officials Thursday reaffirmed London's total opposition to economic measures against South Africa despite growing signs that some of the staunchest advocates of sanctions were ready to compromise at the Commonwealth conference here.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who Wednesday had called for "comprehensive and mandatory" sanctions against Pretoria, said Thursday he would be prepared to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher party way as long as the end result was the elimination of apartheid. "If we win freedom for South Africa, we all win," he said. But British delegation officials remained adamant that Mrs Thatcher "would have no truck" with any economic sanctions. The diplomatic ballet which always surrounds such conferences was in full swing as attempts were made to find a face-saving formula which would allow the cherished Commonwealth ideal of consensus to be achieved.

Mr Gandhi was scheduled to meet later with Canadian and Australian Prime Ministers Brian Mulroney and Bob Hawke -- who are in the forefront of what they themselves call "bridge-building efforts" -- and with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe. This "conference within a conference' was to be devdoted entirely to the South African question, officials onall sides said. Both Mr Hawke and Mr Mulroney have now met Mrs Thatcher and told her there should be some Commonwealth forward movement on the South African issue. They remained reasonably optimistic that a compromise could be reached.

President Kaunda, who has good personal relations with Mrs Thatcher and who was the first leader she saw after her arrival here from London, is regarded as a key figure in any mediation efforts. Thursday was his day in the Commonwealth leaders' meeting when he made what was described afterwards as an "emotional, passionate and dramatic" off-the-cuff speech calling for santions against South Africa. He said a catastrophe was looming in Southern Africa and called on the Commonwealth to do something about it. South African President Pieter Botha had already turned his back on dialogue, he said. President Kaunda pledged his total support for economic sanctions while acknowledging that Frontline states would suffer. But he asked what was the alternative. If the Commonwealth did nothing against the oppressors, then Britain had won and the wrath of the oppressed would go beyond the point of no return. "Enough is enough," he said. President Kaunda said that in the interest of agreement he would be prepared to look at selective sanctions, but added that the Commonwealth must insist on South Africa lifting the state of emergency and releasing jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

Prime Minister Hawke, who followed Mr Kaunda in the debate, formally put forward his proposal for a Commonwealth group of "wise men" to be appointed to "facilitate the process of dialogue in South Africa." He said the Commonwealth had to consider some comprehensive sanctions or other pressure, or it would lose all credibility. Mr Hawke said later that this was a point that he had laboured in his talks with Mrs Thatcher Thursday. Sanctions, he said, had to be considered before the Commonwealth could look at alternatives.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth conference took its first decisions by appointing a 10-nation ad hoc committee to draft a Nassau Commonwealth declaration on world order with a commitment to strengthening international cooperation. This was at the initiative of Mr Gandhi.

Thatcher Opposed To Sanctions

LD171033 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0757 GMT 17 Oct 85

[By Tom Corby, PA staff correspondent in Nassau, Bahamas]

[Text] Mrs Thatcher was today standing firm on the issue of economic sanctions against South Africa. Her message to fellow prime ministers at the Commonwealth summit at Nassau, Bahamas, was clear that while rejecting apartheid, and all that it stood for, remained resolutely opposed to sanctions because they would bring economic and political chaos to South Africa. Sanctions would only harm the very people Britain was seeking to help - the South African Blacks.

The main British subsidiary companies in South Africa provide more than 100,000 jobs for black workers. They are the largest foreign providers of jobs for the black work force in the South African republic. Mrs Thatcher who, at the opening of the summit earlier heard six speeches from Commonwealth leaders calling for action on South Africa -- two of them demanding mandatory sanctions -- is convinced that the meeting should work towards creating a climate of peaceful and fundamental reform in South Africa and an end to apartheid. She wants the summit to find a practical path to reform and the creation of political conditions for dialogue between the South African Government and all sections of the community there.

Mrs Thatcher rejects the claim by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that mandatory sanctions would persuade the South African Government to abandon apartheid. She believes that economic sanctions would only drive the South African extremists further back and hopes that the course of practical reform she is seeking will emerge during the summit. Mrs Thatcher was not downcast by the opening speeches to the summit because frequently there is a degree of disparity between what is said publicly by politicians and what they say in private. Mrs Thatcher is in perfect accord with the other prime ministers about the overall objective - the elimination of apartheid - but she is dismissive of those who just mouth slogans.

Last night, Mrs Thatcher attended a banquet given by the queen on the royal yacht Britannia for heads of the Commonwealth delegation. Today, she will be the keynote speaker for the summit's debate on the world political scene during which she will make it abundantly clear that Britain is totally opposed to apartheid.

Thatcher Avoids S. Africa Issue

FL181154 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 18 Oct 85

[Text] British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher addressed the Commonwealth heads of government meeting today in Nassau, Bahamas and she avoided any discussion of South Africa. Before the formal session began, Mrs Thatcher held a formal, private meeting with three other Commonwealth heads of government in an attempt to avoid confrontation over the issue of sanctions against South Africa. Greg Fletcher has this report from Nassau, Bahamas.

Prime Minister Thatcher held the discussions to exchange views on the issue of sanctions. According to a British spokesman, Mrs Thatcher felt she had gotten the message across that Britain opposed any form of sanctions against South Africa. Mrs Thatcher met with Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Zambian President Kennth Kaunda. British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe had a similar meeting with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. Mrs Thatcher told the leaders that sanctions would not be effective. She said change could come about only through [word indistinct]. Leaders with access to Prime Minister Thatcher had been pressing for a consensus on sanctions to put pressure on Pretoria. Diplomats attending the meeting said also the compromise position may be worked out by the Prime Minister at an informal retreat scheduled for this weekend.

Malaysian Premier Raps 'Excuses'

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[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed, has stirred some serious thinking among the heads of government attending the meeting of Commonwealth presidents and prime ministers in the Bahamas. In his main address to the 49-member association, the Malaysian prime minister drew attention to the frustration caused by the lack of political will among members that has allowed the South African government to carry on with its inhuman and racist policy of apartheid.

With his characteristic frankness and bluntness of expression, Dr Mahathir Mohamed has warned of the dire consequences if nothing is done to destroy apartheid. Malaysians are happy that yet again it is their prime minister who is urging the initiation of economic sanctions against South Africa. They recollect with pride that in 1961 it was the then Malaysian Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman who led the Commonwealth campaign against South Africa that led to its expulsion from the association. It is the hope of Malaysians that this time Dr Mahathir Mohamed's call for mandatory sanctions will bring about a weakening of the white-dominated government and the speedy involvement of black Africans in the political processes of their own country. The Malaysian prime minister's attack was also leveled against certain Commonwealth members who are finding all manner of excuses for not going ahead with sanctions.

Their oft-heard concern for the black Africans and that sanctions would affect this community more severely than the white minority group is not at all convincing. After all, as Dr Mahathir Mohamed pointed out, the blacks are not exactly enjoying a very remarkable standard of living. Sanctions would be the best weapon against apartheid, and it is a measure short of war that is especially mentioned in the UN Charter. The whole UN system stands for recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members. The Commonwealth, too, is supposedly a champion of human dignity and is meant to be an association of peoples.

The Malaysian prime minister has done the right thing to demand that the Commonwealth live up to its ideals. Malaysia does have the moral right to take a strong stand on this matter, as it stopped all trade with South Africa many years ago, even though that country used to be a good market for Malaysian timber. Another topic, which the Malaysian prime minister dwelt on at some length, was the plight of the developing countries that are finding it very difficult to sell their products at reasonable prices to the affluent nations. Dr Mahathir Mohamed was speaking for the smaller nations of the Commonwealth association, with which Malaysia has always had very cordial ties. In recent years, moreover, Malaysia has set in motion a program of technical assistance to these small nations. Malaysia has taken its Commonwealth realtionship seriously by concentrating on these aspects rather than on rhetoric and colorful protocol.

The Malaysian prime minister's address in the Bahamas testifies to his sincerity and seriousness of purpose as far as our Commonwealth membership is concerned.

POSSIBLE STEPS TO DEMOCRATIZATION VIEWED

PM151251 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 11 Oct 85 p 3

[Unnamed "own correspondents" report: "Old Parties Weigh Reconciliation With Bouterse"]

[Text] Amsterdam/Paramaribo -- The leaders of Suriname's "old political parties" are prepared to take part in celebrations with Army leader Bouterse on 25 November -- the 10th anniversary of independence -- provided that the military authorities have by then signed a democratization plan.

Sources in the Hindustani party, the VDP [United Democratic Parties], and the Creole NPS [Suriname National Party] expect that under the pressure of circumstances Bouterse will sign the blueprint in which he will commit himself to hold free general elections within 18 months. The Army leader recently admitted that "the revolution does not have the support of the Surinamese people."

In addition, the country is no longer in a position to pay for its imports because of an acute shortage of foreign currency. As a result of the precarious economic situation, the Surinamese Government could be forced within the foreseeable future to sack thousands of its 40,000 civil servants. This could possibly lead to unrest among workers as a result of which industry in the country would come to a standstill.

On 9 October Jaggernath Lachmon's VDP met for the first time since the coup d'etat in 1980. The party council, which gave Lachmon a standing ovation on his arrival, granted the 69-year-old Hindustani leader the authority to negotiate with the military authorities in the name of the party. Henk Arron's NPS, which met Thursday evening, and the Javanese KTPI [expansion unknown] will also take part in the negotiations.

At the VDP meeting Lachmon said he and Arron have already been holding talks with Bouterse for the past 2 years as private individuals. These talks have now reached a stage where they no longer wish to negotiate as private individuals but as leaders of the political parties. VDP sources indicate that the leaders of the VDP, NPS, and KTPI will hold weekly meetings with the military authorities to establish a framework for the restoration of democracy by 24 November.

Spokesmen within the VDP and NPS said that in his personal contacts with the leaders of the "old parties" Bouterse continually pressed for the amalgamation of these parties into one large national party in which the small RVP [Revolutionary People's Party] and PALU Progressive Workers' and Farm Laborers' Union parties, which operate on an ideological foundation, would also be included. Arron and Lachmon persisted in categorically rejecting this idea.

The VDP and NPS spokesmen also stressed that the three old parties, which represent around 80 percent of the Surinamese population, have definitely no plans to take part in the present government in which the military authorities, industry, and commerce and the trade union movement work together. In the period up to free elections, the parties' possible involvement would produce a sort of national cabinet.

In telephone contacts Lachmon was less than communicative. "Leave me in peace; I do not want to disturb the dialogue with the military. Asked whether he and Arron are not negotiating with Bouterse from a powerless position, Lachmon said: "If power is the point of departure for him, a dialogue is not possible. But positions of power are not on the agenda at the moment."

The condition for public reconciliation on 25 November is that Bouterse must agree to free elections, the drafting of a new constitution, a law governing political parties, and an electoral law. Lachmon and Arron's conditions had already been formulated by mid-1984 in a memorandum on the restoration of democratic conditions. The memorandum was never published in Suriname.

The VDP, and in all probability, the NPS and KTPI, will not take part in a national government but will participate in the "high-level council" of industry and commerce, the trade union movement, and the military authorities on the drafting of a new constitution. At the beginning of this year at the time of the formation of the Udenhout government and the National Assembly, these latter groupings agreed to produce a plan for new democratic structures within 27 months. Thus, next in line is the dialogue between the old political parties and the military authorities. The relationship between the talks with Bouterse and those with the "high-level council" is not clear.

If Bouterse reaches an agreement with the old parties on the democratization of Surinamese politics he is back in the same position he was in when he seized power in 1980, pushed aside the Constitution, and banned the political parties. There is, however, one difference and that, according to the spokesmen, is that the old parties are one illusion poorer and one lesson richer.

At the meeting of the VDP party council Lachmon stressed several times that Bouterse is not aiming at absolute power. This means, the spokesmen said, that the VDP, NPS, and KTPI would be prepared to allow a military role in Surinamese political life, albeit a marginal role.

The Foreign Ministry in The Hague has welcomed the official dialogue between the old parties and the military authorities. A spokesman said yesterday that he did not want to anticipate a possible resumption of development aid. Asked whether the Netherlands Government would view a possible announcement by Army leader Bouterse of moves toward democratization as a "concrete step" which could lead to the resumption of aid, the spokesman was unwilling to make any comment. "Let us first wait for the announcement."